# Puget Sound Acquistion & Restoration Fund

## Puget Sound Recovery Projects
### Application Project Summary

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **TITLE:** | Donovan Creek Acquisition and Restoration - 135 | **NUMBER:** 09-1610C (Combined) | |
| | | **STATUS:** Preapplication | |
| **APPLICANT:** | Hood Canal SEG | **CONTACT:** | |

**COSTS:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| RCO | $314,250 | 31 % |
| Local | $705,751 | 69 % |
| Total | $1,020,001 | 100 % |

**SPONSOR MATCH:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Grant - Federal | $701,250 |
| Grant - Local | $3,000 |
| Grant - Private | $1,501 |

**DESCRIPTION:**

The overarching goals of this project are to permanently protect, through conservation easement and fee simple acquisition, and restore an entire functional coastal wetland ecosystem totaling **76 acres**, including **49 acres of declining tidal estuarine and freshwater wetlands** and approximately 21 additional acres of hydric soils. This includes existing ground-truthed freshwater emergent and shrub/forested wetlands that will be restored wetlands and riparian forests. Further, 6 acres of limited restored upland buffer lands formerly agricultural.

Restoration actions will include re-meandering approximately 3,300 feet of the channelized portion of Donovan Creek, adding large woody debris for habitat value (approximately 120 pieces) and replanting approximately 15 acres of riparian corridor along the newly meandered channel. A secondary goal is to contribute to and expand on the estuarine conservation efforts and freshwater/marine habitat connections already accomplished in Quilcene Bay, a priority site within Hood Canal for federally-threatened summer chum and Chinook salmon and steelhead trout and numerous other species of fish and wildlife.

**LOCATION INFORMATION:**

**COUNTY:**

**SALMON INFORMATION: (* indicates primary)**

**Species Targeted**

Chinook
Chum
Coho*
Steelhead

**Habitat Factors Addressed**

Biological Processes
Channel Conditions
Estuarine and Nearshore Habitat
Loss of Access to Spawning and Rearing Habitat*
Riparian Conditions
Streambed Sediment Conditions
Water Quantity

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **LAST UPDATED:** | June 10, 2009 | **DATE PRINTED:** | June 25, 2009 |

# Development/Restoration Cost Estimate Summary

**Hood Canal SEG** **09-1610 C**

**Donovan Creek Acquisition and Restoration - 135** **Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration**

| Element/Item | Unit | Quantity | Unit Cost | Total Cost | Description Needed | Description |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Worksite #1, Lower Donovan Creek** | | | | | | |
| **In-Stream Habitat** | | | | | | |
| Channel reconfiguration | Linear ft | 3,300.00 | $142.48 | $470,170.00 | Describe | Includes 120 LWD and replanting of approx. 15 acre riparian |
| **Project Tax Amount** | | | | $0.00 | | |
| **Project A&E Amount** | | | | $93,330.00 | | |
| **Project Total Costs** | | | | **$563,500.00** | | |

# Cost Estimates By Property

**Hood Canal SEG** **09-1610 C**

**Donovan Creek Acquisition and Restoration - 135** **Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration**

**Worksite: #1, Lower Donovan Creek**

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**Detailed Property Information**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Property Name:** | Hansberry Property | **Property Grantor:** | George Hansberry |
| **Acreage to be Purchased:** | 10.00 | **Ownership Instrument:** | Easement |
| **Date to be Acquired:** | 6/1/2010 | **Purchase Type:** | Less than fee ownership |
| **Value Determination:** | Estimate of Value | **Term Length:** | Perpetuity |
| | | **Expiration Date:** | N/A |

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## Acquisition Cost Estimate for Hansberry Property Property

**Allowable land costs**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Land | $120,000.00 | |
| **Sub-Total** | | **$120,000.00** |
| | | **$120,000.00** |

# Cost Estimates By Property

**Hood Canal SEG** **09-1610 C**

**Donovan Creek Acquisition and Restoration - 135** **Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration**

**Detailed Property Information**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Property Name:** | Schmidt property | **Property Grantor:** | Paul Schmidt |
| **Acreage to be Purchased:** | 30.00 | **Ownership Instrument:** | Deed - Quit Claim |
| **Date to be Acquired:** | 6/1/2010 | **Purchase Type:** | Fee ownership |
| **Value Determination:** | Estimate of Value | **Term Length:** | Perpetuity |
| | | **Expiration Date:** | N/A |

## Acquisition Cost Estimate for Schmidt property Property

**Allowable land costs**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Land | $200,000.00 | |
| **Sub-Total** | | **$200,000.00** |
| | | **$200,000.00** |

# PROJECT PROPOSAL – RESTORATION, ACQUISITION, AND COMBINATION RESTORATION/ACQUISITION PROJECTS-2009

**INSTRUCTIONS: Salmon Recovery Funding Board applicants must respond to the following items. Please respond to each question individually -- do not summarize your answers collectively in essay format). Local citizen and technical advisory groups will use this information to evaluate your project. Contact your lead entity for additional information that may be required. Limit your response to eight pages.**

**Submit information via the PRISM attachment process. Application checklists and attachment forms may be downloaded off the SRFB Web site at http://www.rco.wa.gov/srfb/docs.htm.**

**NOTE: Acquisition, Combination, Fish Passage, and Diversions and Screening projects have supplemental questions embedded within this worksheet. Please answer the questions below and all pertinent supplemental questions.**

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## 1) PROJECT OVERVIEW

Explain your project overall and include the following elements:

*a) List your primary project objectives, such as how this project will improve or maintain habitat conditions and habitat forming processes.*

The basic goal of this project is to permanently protect, through conservation easement and fee simple acquisition, and restore an entire functional coastal wetland ecosystem totaling **76 acres**, including **49 acres of declining tidal estuarine and freshwater wetlands** and approximately 21 additional acres of hydric soils (existing ground-truthed freshwater emergent and shrub/forested wetlands that will be restored wetlands and riparian forests) and limited restored upland buffer lands (formerly agricultural, maximum 6 acres) (Attachment D). Restoration actions will include re-meandering approximately 3,300 feet of the channelized portion of Donovan Creek, adding large woody debris for habitat value (approximately 120 pieces) and replanting approximately 15 acres of riparian corridor along the newly meandered channel. A secondary goal is to contribute to and expand on the estuarine conservation efforts and freshwater/marine habitat connections already accomplished in Quilcene Bay, a priority site within Hood Canal for federally-threatened summer chum and Chinook salmon and steelhead trout and numerous other species of fish and wildlife.

*b) State the nature, source, and extent of the problem that the project will address, including the primary causes of the problem, not just the symptoms. Explain how achieving the project objectives will help solve the problem. (Fish Passage projects and Diversions and Screening projects should refer to the supplemental questions later in this worksheet for further guidance on information to include in their problem statement.)*

Because of substantial intact tidal marsh habitat, Quilcene Bay has been recognized as a priority ecosystem for protection and restoration by many groups. It is a priority nearshore conservation area according to The Nature Conservancy's Willamette Valley-Puget Trough-Georgia Basin Ecoregional Assessment (Floberg et al. 2004) because of its importance for conservation targets such as surf smelt (an important forage fish) and Olympia oysters. Priority Conservation Areas are defined as areas of biodiversity concentration that contain target species, communities and ecosystems and are considered the highest priorities for conservation. It is also a priority zone for the

recovery of threatened Hood Canal summer chum salmon (Summer Chum Recovery Plan 2007) and Puget Sound bull trout (USFWS Draft Recovery Plan for the Coastal-Puget Sound Distinct Population Segment of Bull Trout 2004). Further, Quilcene Bay and the Donovan Creek estuarine and palustrine wetlands provide many habitat and foraging values that are recognized by national and regional plans aimed at conserving shorebirds, waterfowl and waterbirds (see Criterion 7).

However, within Quilcene Bay, dike and road building and flood control projects have severely impacted local estuarine wetland abundance and health (Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (HCSEG) 2006). The Upper Quilcene Bay complex was considered "moderately impaired" by the PNPTC Historic Changes report (2006) – only one of the six largest complexes was considered functional (Tarboo Creek), while three were severely impaired. The combined past and currently proposed acquisition and restoration efforts in the Upper Quilcene Bay complex, including this project, will protect and restore the functionality of this substantial delta and tidal marsh complex – significantly increasing the area of functional tidal and associated freshwater wetlands in Hood Canal, where these habitats are substantially reduced. Upper Quilcene Bay historically represented 4% of total tidal wetland habitat in the Hood Canal / Strait of Juan De Fuca region (PNPTC 2006). For the Upper Quilcene habitat complex, the PNPTC analysis recommends addressing habitat loss and overall habitat connectivity primarily through restoration but also protection. The proposed project will increase the connectivity of Donovan creek and estuary to Upper Quilcene Bay. It also protects newly restored connections among the tidal marshes of Donovan Creek and the Little and Big Quilcene rivers that together comprise the historically connected Upper Quilcene Bay habitat complex.

*c) Describe the fish resources (species and life history stages present, unique populations), the habitat conditions, and other current and historic factors important to understanding this project. Be specific--avoid general statements. Which salmonid species and life cycle stage(s) are targeted to benefit by this project?*

In Quilcene Bay, federally-listed Hood Canal summer chum and Puget Sound Chinook salmon use estuarine and tidal marsh habitat during their juvenile rearing stage, as do Puget Sound/Strait of Georgia coho (federal species of concern) and pink salmon, Puget Sound steelhead trout (federally threatened), coastal Puget Sound bull trout (federally threatened) and coastal cutthroat trout. These fish spawn in the Little and Big Quilcene rivers and may spawn in Donovan Creek as well. Current spawner counts and historic evidence reviewed by the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (HCSEG) suggest that summer chum, coho, cutthroat and possibly steelhead will utilize the Donovan Creek drainage if restored to provide proper habitat function. This project will address components of all four of the major factors leading to the decline of Hood Canal summer chum habitat in Quilcene Bay by 1) protecting natal subestuarine tidal marsh habitat, 2) protecting floodplain wetlands, 3) restoring instream habitat, and 4) restoring riparian forests (Summer Chum Recovery Plan, NOAA 2007). This project will also address all the limiting factors for salmon habitat in the 2.1 potentially accessible miles of Donovan Creek that were identified by the Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 17 Limiting Factors Analysis (2002), namely channel confinement, floodplain disconnection and lack of large woody debris and riparian vegetation in the lower reaches.

*d) Discuss how this project fits within your regional recovery plan or local lead entity strategy (i.e., does the project address a priority action, occur in a priority area, or target priority fish species?).*

This project is key to completing a phased approach to large-scale ecosystem restoration in upper Quilcene Bay (upper Quilcene Bay includes tidal marsh estuaries of the Big and Little Quilcene Rivers and Donovan Creek) – the third largest delta and tidal marsh complex in Hood Canal (PNPTC 2006). The multiple phases of Quilcene conservation were selected as the most important conservation actions for this system, and they were designed to be implemented in a manner so that each action adds to the value of the last, ultimately resulting in conservation of an entire coastal ecosystem that is critical to the health of Hood Canal and the diverse species that feed, rear and reproduce in this system. The proposed protection and restoration actions in the Donovan Creek system are among the last of the phases required for ecosystem-scale conservation of upper Quilcene Bay. Project actions will build on restored habitat connections between Quilcene Bay and Donovan Creek, initiated by the HCSEG in 2007 by the removal of an undersized culvert at the mouth of Donovan Creek which was the last constructed fish passage barrier on the creek and replacement with a bridge. The proposed project will also build on extensive protection and restoration actions within upper Quilcene Bay, including a project previously funded by the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant program (C-56-1). Over the past 20 years, HCSEG and many partners have protected critical floodplain lands, removed more than 1.6 miles of freshwater and saltwater dikes and levees to restore river flow and estuarine and floodplain connections, re-meandered and restored more than 3,000 feet of stream channels to historic locations, enhanced tidal channel complexity, added critical habitat and functional features such as large woody debris, restored more than 100 acres of estuarine marsh and riparian forest plant communities, and fenced protected floodplains and wetlands to reduce impacts from surrounding agricultural lands. All of these phased actions, including this project, were developed with the goal of protecting and restoring the larger Upper Quilcene Bay delta and tidal marsh ecosystem.

*e) Has any part of this project been previously reviewed and/or funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board? If yes, please provide the project name and SRFB project number (or year of application if a project number is not available). If the project was later withdrawn for funding consideration or was not awarded SRFB funding, please describe how the current proposal differs from the original.*

No

## 2) PROJECT DESIGN

*a) Describe the location of the project in the watershed, including the name of the water body(ies), upper and lower extent of the project (if only a portion of the watershed is targeted), and whether the project occurs in the nearshore, estuary, main stem, tributary, off channel, or other location.*

This project is located in Jefferson County, Washington, within the Hood Canal. It is in the WRIA 17 Quilcene Basin and the north end of Quilcene Bay along the lower mile of Donovan Creek in Jefferson County, Washington. T27N, R1W, Sec 18. (Attachment A, Figures 1 and 2).

*b) Describe the project design and how it will be implemented. Describe the extent of the project. Describe specific restoration methods and design elements you plan to employ. If restoration will occur in phases, explain individual sequencing steps, and which of these steps is included in this application. (Acquisition-only projects need not respond to this question.)*

The acquisition and restoration components of this project will be conducted by various partners that have been involved in the larger Quilcene Bay protection and restoration efforts, including the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (HCSEG), Jefferson County Conservation District (JCCD), Jefferson Land Trust (JLT) and the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. Jefferson Land Trust will acquire fee interest or conservation easements on all four properties within the lower mile of Donovan creek to protect critical coastal wetlands in the ecologically important Quilcene Bay system. Initial feasibility assessment, including evaluation of protection goals and discussion with project partners and landowners, has suggested the following protection strategy for the four coastal Donovan Creek properties (Attachment B):

- Protect 10 acre Hansberry property (freshwater wetlands and stream corridor – confluence of Donovan and Tommy creeks)
- Protect 3.3 acre stream and freshwater wetland corridor on Jones property
- Protect 30 acre Schmidt property (freshwater & tidal wetlands)
- Restore all properties and 33 acre Quilcene Heights Property (already permanently protected by easement held by JLT)

Protection of a 3.3 acre stream buffer on the Jones property was determined by project partners to be sufficient to conserve habitat and restoration targets. This will be accomplished through purchase of fee simple or conservation easement. Full fee acquisition will require a boundary line adjustment and potentially creation of a separate tax parcel. Current Jefferson County regulations allow for creation of substandard lots for conservation purposes.

Assignment of rights and conservation assurances will be provided to the Washington Department of Ecology. Jefferson Land Trust currently stewards 36 properties protecting nearly 7800 acres in Jefferson County and has recently applied for accredited status through the Land Trust Alliance (application in review). Stewardship and monitoring protocols were developed with the guidance of The Land Trust Alliance and have been utilized effectively for over 20 years. Jefferson Land Trust conducts detailed baseline documentation of the conservation values, and creates stewardship plans and monitoring manuals for field use. Land Trust staff and community volunteers conduct annual monitoring in trained teams that include habitat biologists, foresters and others as appropriate.

Restoration elements of the project will be coordinated by a technical team led by the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group and Jefferson County Conservation District, and includes the expertise of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Hood Canal Coordinating Council, and the Jamestown S'Klallam, Port Gamble S'Klallam as well as Skokomish tribal biologists. The HCSEG is one of 14 Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEG) in Washington. The RFEG program was instituted by the State of Washington in 1990 to include citizens in local salmon recovery efforts. HCSEG works to

perpetuate and enhance the genetic diversity and stocks of wild salmon in Hood Canal through the protection and restoration of salmon habitat, stewardship and research for watershed and marine ecosystems, and community education and outreach, and has worked extensively in the Quilcene Bay Estuary. JCCD works with landowners and the community to protect, enhance and restore salmon habitat and educate landowners about agricultural Best Management Practices.

*c) Describe the scale and size of the project or property(s) to be acquired, and its proximity to protected, functioning, or restored habitats. (Fish Passage only projects and Diversions and Screening only projects [i.e., not a combination] need not respond to this question.)*

The basic goal of this project is to permanently protect, through conservation easement and fee simple acquisition, and restore an entire functional coastal wetland ecosystem totaling **76 acres**, including **49 acres of declining tidal estuarine and freshwater wetlands** and approximately 21 additional acres of hydric soils (existing ground-truthed freshwater emergent and shrub/forested wetlands that will be restored wetlands and riparian forests) and limited restored upland buffer lands (formerly agricultural, maximum 6 acres) (Attachment D). Restoration actions will include remeandering approximately 3,300 feet of the channelized portion of Donovan Creek, adding large woody debris for habitat value (approximately 120 pieces) and replanting approximately 15 acres of riparian corridor along the newly meandered channel. A secondary goal is to contribute to and expand on the estuarine conservation efforts and freshwater/marine habitat connections already accomplished in Quilcene Bay, a priority site within Hood Canal for federally-threatened summer chum and Chinook salmon and steelhead trout and numerous other species of fish and wildlife.

*d) Describe the long-term stewardship and maintenance obligations for the project or acquired land. For acquisition and combination projects, identify any planned use of the property, including upland areas.*

Assignment of rights and conservation assurances will be provided to the Washington Department of Ecology. Jefferson Land Trust currently stewards 36 properties protecting nearly 7,800 acres in Jefferson County and has recently applied for accredited status through the Land Trust Alliance (application in review). Stewardship and monitoring protocols were developed with the guidance of The Land Trust Alliance and have been utilized effectively for over 20 years. Jefferson Land Trust conducts detailed baseline documentation of the conservation values, and creates stewardship plans and monitoring manuals for field use. Land Trust staff and community volunteers conduct annual monitoring in trained teams that include habitat biologists, foresters and others as appropriate.

## 3) PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

*a) List the individuals and methods used to identify the project and its location.*

The location, priority, and timing of the project are developed by the Lead Entity (HCCC) as a part of the Three-Year Watershed Implementation Priorities for Hood Canal Coordinating Council" after consultation with all the interested parties both public and private in the Puget Sound region.

Key individuals include:

| | |
|---|---|
| Richard Brocksmith - HCCC | Rich Geiger – Mason Conservation District |
| Randy Johnson - WDFW | Margie Shirato - WDFW |
| Rich Carlson - USFWS | Al Lathem – Jefferson County Conservation District |

The acquisition and restoration components of this project were identified by various partners that have been involved in the larger Quilcene Bay protection and restoration efforts, including the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (HCSEG), Jefferson County Conservation District (JCCD), Jefferson Land Trust (JLT) and the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. Initial feasibility assessment, including evaluation of protection goals and discussion with project partners and landowners, has resulted in the protection strategy for the four coastal Donovan Creek properties (Attachment B). The restoration actions have been coordinated with the Lead Entity (HCCC), the Mason Conservation District (for restoration details), and all the entities identified immediately above.

*b) Explain how the project's cost estimates were determined.*

With numerous similar environmental projects completed in the Hood Canal Watershed, Mr. Rich Gieger. developed the budget based on his survey and his "*Donovan Creek Elevations*" drawings provided in the proposal. Cost estimates were spot checked with local construction subcontractors for reasonableness.

*c) Describe other approaches, opportunities, and design alternatives that were considered to achieve the project's objectives.*

No other alternatives have been seriously investigated as this project is key to completing a phased approach to large-scale ecosystem restoration in upper Quilcene Bay (upper Quilcene Bay includes tidal marsh estuaries of the Big and Little Quilcene Rivers and Donovan Creek) – the third largest delta and tidal marsh complex in Hood Canal (PNPTC 2006). The multiple phases of Quilcene conservation were selected as the most important conservation actions for this system, and they were designed to be implemented in a manner so that each action adds to the value of the last, ultimately resulting in conservation of an entire coastal ecosystem that is critical to the health of Hood Canal and the diverse species that feed, rear and reproduce in this system. The proposed protection and restoration actions in the Donovan Creek system are among the last of the phases required for ecosystem-scale conservation of upper Quilcene Bay. Project actions will build on restored habitat connections between Quilcene Bay and Donovan Creek, initiated by the HCSEG in 2007 by the removal of an undersized culvert at the mouth of Donovan Creek which was the last constructed fish passage barrier on the creek and replacement with a bridge. All of these phased actions, including this project, were developed with the goal of protecting and restoring the larger Upper Quilcene Bay delta and tidal marsh ecosystem.

*d) Describe the consequences of not conducting this project at this time. Consider the current level and imminence of risk to habitat in your discussion.*

Without this project at this time key estuary and stream habitat will further degrade an already degraded river estuary. Critical habitat will continue to be lost and the opportunity to restore the estuarine complex will be forever lost thereby denying another generation of ESA listed salmonids the opportunities afforded by a pristine, fully functioning river estuary and nearshore habitat.

*e) Describe any concerns about the project raised from the community, recreational user groups, or adjacent land owners, and how you addressed them.*

The Lead Entity and the HCSEG has maintained an intensive outreach and education program in the Quilcene Bay area for more than five (5) years resulting in overwhelming support for restoration efforts completed and planned for the Quilcene Bay and watershed.

This project is but one part of an overarching, multiyear program of ecosystem acquisition, restoration, preservation and habitat improvement and monitoring on the Quilcene Bay. During the course of the year members of the HCSEG conduct workshops, environmental exploration, and education and multimedia presentations for community members all along the Quilcene Bay.

This project will continue to inform and educate the public. We hypothesize that our high-tech, high-touch approach builds community involvement and support for ecosystem protection and restoration as evidenced by our history of fund raising and community activism.

*f) Include a Partner Contribution Form, when required, from each partner outlining its role and contribution to the project. This form may be downloaded off the SRFB Web site. State agencies are required to have a local partner that is independently eligible to be a project sponsor. A Partner Contribution Form is also required from partners providing third-party match.*

**Form Attached in PRISM**

*g) List all landowner names. Include a signed Landowner Acknowledgement Form (available on the SRFB Web site) from each landowner acknowledging their property is proposed for SRFB funding consideration. If a restoration project covers a large area and encompasses numerous properties, Landowner Acknowledgement Forms are not required. For sponsors proposing work on their own property, this form is not required. For multi-site acquisition projects involving a relatively large group of landowners, include, at a minimum, signed Landowner Acknowledgement Forms for all known priority parcels.*

**Forms Attached in PRISM**

George Hansberry, PO Box 424 Quilcene, WA 98376 – signed LOA on file
Cameron Jones, 190 McInnis RD Quilcene, WA 98376 - signed LOA on file
Paul Schmidt, 255 Jakeaway RD, Quilcene, WA 98376 – signed LOA on file
Jefferson Land Trust, 1033 Lawrence ST, Port Townsend, WA 98368– signed LOA on file

*h) Describe your experience managing this type of project. List the names, qualifications, roles, and responsibilities for all known staff, consultants, and subcontractors who will be implementing the project. If unknown, describe the selection process.*

The HCSEG was founded in 1990. During the subsequent nineteen (19) years the HCSEG has completed 121 separate ecosystem preservation, acquisition, and remediation projects at a total cost of approximately $18,500,000.00. All projects have been completed in accordance with design criteria and the overarching project plan(s). This record of achievement and success indicates a near perfect probability of success on this project as well. Specific examples of our work can be accessed on our web site: www.hcseg.org.

Key project supporters include:

1) **Neil W. Werner** – **Project Manager**; Executive Director Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group.
2) **Kim Gower - Office Manager** responsible for general administrative business operations.
3) **Mona Pillers – Office Accountant** and Administrative Assistant responsible for the day to day functions of financial accounting; researches information for projects, grants and legislative policies.
4) **Pat McCullough**, ESA Inc - **Lead Engineer**. Over 60 environmental projects completed in Hood Canal Watershed
5) **Construction Contractor(s)** – The contractor will be selected following the best and final proposal submitted from a list of qualified (responsive & responsible) contractors maintained and updated annually by the HCSEG in accordance with standard policy and procedures.

Others may be selected with experience in near shore and estuary issues and familiar with Hood Canal Watershed prior to contract award(s). No additional expertise is anticipated for this proposed project.

## 4) TASKS AND SCHEDULE

*a) List and describe the major tasks and time schedule you will use to complete the project.*

| **Objective** | **Completion** |
|---|---|
| Protect 10 acre Hansberry property (freshwater wetlands) | 2010 |
| Protect 3.3 acre stream and freshwater wetland corridor on Jones property | 2010 |
| Protect 30 acre Schmidt property (freshwater & tidal wetlands) | 2010 |
| Restore all properties and 33 acre Quilcene Heights Property as needed (estimated 40 total acres of restoration across all properties) | Summer 2011 |

| Objective | Completion |
|---|---|
| o Re-meander stream channel along lower Donovan Creek (upper 2/3 of project area - 3,300 feet) | Summer 2011 |
| o Add large woody debris to stream system (estimated 120 pieces) | Summer 2011 |
| o Plant native riparian species along new channel (15 acres) | Summer 2011 |
| o Fence riparian forest, coastal wetlands and stream to prevent cattle entry | Summer 2011 |

## CONSTRAINTS AND UNCERTAINTIES

*b) Each project should include an adaptive management approach that provides for contingency planning. State any constraints, uncertainties, possible problems, delays, or unanticipated expenses that may hinder completion of the project. Explain how you will address these issues as they arise and their likely impact on the project.*

No major constraints, uncertainties or delays are anticipated. The only unanticipated expense category of concern is that of fuel costs. That concern is mitigated by the HCSEG willingness to absorb the fuel cost differential over that planned and budgeted. Of course other issues may arise that, if left unmanaged, may hinder or delay the completion of the project on time, budget or meeting quality norms. The only sensible strategy is to closely manage the project and deal with or escalate problems or delays as they arise and before they have a chance to spiral out of control. Our team's ability to adaptively manage contingencies is proven and governed by our "readiness strategy".

Readiness-Building Strategy - Readiness for ecosystems restoration begins with the creation of a team dedicated to developing a coherent vision of a successful initiative. Our team is a cross-functional team, made up of scientific, technical, administrative, program / project management, education, and information systems personnel. Their mission is to develop a focused, aligned vision of how ecosystem restoration will meet specific needs articulated in the Governor's Puget Sound Partnership and the HCCC Recovery Strategy. Moreover the strategy is tailored to fit into the unique Hood Canal / Quilcene Bay environment. This team, along with the Lead Entity helps ensure buy-in and commitment from multiple stakeholder groups as buy-in is considered vital to a successful restoration project.

Our team is formed. We have completed the project assessment and prioritization (initiation) phase, and the planning phase. We have worked together over the years and we are ready to quickly and effectively complete the execution / control and close-out phases of this project.

# Supplemental Questions

*5) PROJECTS INVOLVING ACQUISITIONS (Applies to both Acquisition-only and Combination Projects)– Answer the following questions*

*a) Describe the type of acquisition proposed (e.g., fee title, conservation easement).*

Jones, Schmidt and Hansberry will be fee title (Schmidt and Jones require a boundary lot adjustment). JLT already holds an easement on the 33 acre Quilcene Height property.

Protection of a 3.3 acre stream buffer (200 ft width) on the Jones property was determined by project partners to the only feasible action sufficient to conserve habitat and restoration targets on this portion of the Donovan Creek project area. Because landowners of this property are interested in maintaining agricultural uses of the remaining area outside of the riparian buffer, it is not feasible at this time to purchase and restore additional acreage on the Jones property. However, securing this buffer is crucial to the success of the project as it is located in the interior of the project area and contains channelized stream corridor and degraded stream and riparian habitat that must be addressed to restore ecosystem function. Conceptual design determined that an approximate 200 foot riparian buffer corridor on the Jones property would allow for restoration and possible stream meanders in this portion of the stream corridor (Attachment C). Protection of the 3.3 acre buffer on the Jones property will be accomplished through purchase of fee simple interest. Full fee acquisition will require a boundary line adjustment and potentially creation of a separate tax parcel. Current Jefferson County regulations allow for creation of substandard lots for conservation purposes, and the County has indicated that it would be willing to work with partners to accomplish the goal of protecting the riparian corridor on the Jones property. Similarly, a boundary line adjustment is required to purchase 30 acres of land held by the Schmidt property.

*b) Describe the habitat types on site (forested riparian/floodplain, wetlands, tributary, main stem, off-channel, bluff-backed beach, barrier beach, open coastal inlet, estuarine delta, pocket estuary, uplands, etc.), their size in acres, and quality. If uplands are included, explain why they are essential for protecting salmonid habitat. Describe any features that make the site unique.*

- forested riparian/floodplain/forested wetland = 19 acres (200 ft riparian buffer or greater) (degraded - spotty riparian corridor or non-existent)
- freshwater wetlands = 42 acres (disconnected from mainstem Donovan Creek as a result of channelization)
- main stem Donovan = acreage captured in freshwater wetland figure; ~2/3 mile of stream channel (degraded - channelized, banks destabilized, lack of LWD)
- estuarine delta / tidal wetlands = 9 acres (largely functional as a result of culvert replacement at mouth)
- uplands = 6 acres (currently agricultural to be restored to upland forest)

| Type | Acres | Percentage of Project Area |
|---|---|---|
| **Nationally Declining Wetland Types** | | |
| ➢ **Estuarine Intertidal Emergent (E2EMP)** | **9** | 12% |
| ➢ **Freshwater/Palustrine Emergent** | **28** | 37% |
| Palustrine Emergent - Seasonally Flooded (PEMC) | 1 | |
| Palustrine Emergent - Seasonal Tidal (PEMR) | 19 | |
| Palustrine Emergent – Temporarily Flooded (PEMA) | 7 | |
| Palustrine Emergent Wetland (PEMCD) | 1 | |
| ➢ **Freshwater Forested/Shrub** | **12** | 16% |
| Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland (PFOC) | 11 | |
| Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland (PSSA) | 1 | |
| **TOTAL NATIONALLY DECLINING WETLANDS** | **49** | 64% |
| ➢ Additional Hydric Soils (ground-truthed freshwater emergent and shrub/forested wetlands, not rated as NWI wetlands - also includes restored riparian forest area) - approximate | 21 | 28% |
| ➢ Additional conserved upland buffer (restored coastal forest) - approximate | 6 | 8% |
| **TOTAL PROJECT AREA** | **76** | |

c) *State the percentage of the total project area that is intact and fully functioning habitat.*

56%

d) *Explain the degree to which habitat on site is impaired and the nature and extent of required restoration. If the property is in the channel migration zone, is that function intact (i.e., do existing levees, riprap, infrastructure, or other features on this or nearby properties inhibit channel migration)? Describe the likely prioritization, timeframe, and funding sources for proposed restoration activities.*

In addition, within the lower Donovan Creek drainage (mostly below river mile 0.8), the Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 17 limiting factors analysis for salmon and steelhead (2002) indicates that channelization, incision and conversion to agriculture has disconnected the floodplain from Donovan Creek and resulted in increased bank

instability and sediment delivery to Donovan Creek and Quilcene Bay. Connected riparian forests and instream large woody debris also appears to be absent in the lower reach (Washington State Conservation Commission 2002). The WRIA 17 limiting factors analysis also reported that with respect to salmon habitat viability as of 2002, levels of dissolved oxygen in Donovan Creek were "fair," meaning they are at risk of inhibiting stream habitat function, and temperatures were "poor" meaning they are not properly functioning for spawning and rearing. The proposed project will add habitat and functional features such as large woody debris and riparian forests, and by re-meandering the channel it will increase the connectivity of Donovan creek and estuary to its floodplain and also to Upper Quilcene Bay. It also protects newly restored connections among the tidal marshes of Donovan Creek and the Little and Big Quilcene rivers that together comprise the historically connected Upper Quilcene Bay habitat complex. Further by permanently protecting lands surrounding lower Donovan Creek from future development, additional excessive nutrient loads and other development-related impacts to water quality will be limited.

The goal of this project is to permanently protect (through fee simple acquisition) and restore an entire functional coastal wetland ecosystem totaling 76 acres of tidal marsh, freshwater wetland, stream channel and riparian and upland forest habitat along the lower reach of Donovan Creek as it enters the head of Quilcene Bay in Hood Canal, Washington (Attachment A). Project actions will include permanent protection of 49 acres of functional but nationally-declining tidal estuarine and freshwater wetlands, approximately 21 additional acres of hydric soils (existing ground-truthed freshwater emergent and shrub/forested wetlands that will be restored wetlands and riparian forests), and 6 acres of restored (formerly agricultural) forested upland buffer lands (Attachment D). The project area includes four parcels (see table below and Attachment B), and project actions will newly and permanently protect three of these parcels through fee-simple acquisition (43 acres). The fourth parcel is already permanently protected by a conservation easement held by the Jefferson Land Trust (33 acres).

A secondary goal of the proposed project is to contribute to and expand on the estuarine conservation efforts and freshwater/marine habitat connections already accomplished in Quilcene Bay (Attachment E), a priority site within Hood Canal for federally-threatened summer chum and Chinook salmon and steelhead trout and numerous other species of fish and wildlife. The project will complete several comprehensive ecosystem and habitat restoration actions for the lower Donovan Creek system, which will enhance connections with Quilcene Bay as well as upper Donovan Creek and Tommy Creek, including:

1) re-meander 3,300 feet of stream channel;
2) plant 15 acres of riparian forest (200 ft riparian buffer width);
3) add 120 pieces of large woody debris;
4) add 2100 tons of stream bed gravel;
5) fence the stream and wetland system to prevent entry by cattle from adjacent pastures.

Restoration actions will increase channel complexity and allow the lower estuarine channel to meander within a protected floodplain, providing enhanced habitat along ⅔ mile and unrestricted access for 2.1 miles of Donovan Creek and Tommy Creek for salmonids migrating between the Quilcene Bay and Donovan Creek systems (Attachment C). The conceptual design for ecosystem restoration initially suggests that at least 40 acres of the project area will require active restoration actions – encompassing all four project area properties – and that proposed restoration and protection actions are sufficient to conserve habitat and restoration targets and allow for restoration and possible stream meanders in the project area.

*e) List existing structures (home, barn, outbuildings, fence) on the property and any proposed modifications. Note: In general, buildings on SRFB-assisted acquisitions must be removed. Refer to Section 2 of SRFB Manual 18 for information about ineligible project elements.*

There is fencing along the eastern boundary of the estuarine wetlands which will be left in order to maintain cattle exclusions and protect water quality. There is a small outbuilding on the NW corner of the Hansberry property. Upon final survey if the building is located within the conservation easement the building will be removed.

*f) Describe adjacent land uses (upstream, downstream, across stream, upland).*

Donovan Creek, approximately 3 miles long with an additional 2.6 miles in tributaries (Ames and Bucknell 1981), flows into the north end of Quilcene Bay. The stream has been straightened and confined and is void of large woody debris and riparian vegetation in the lower reaches. An average of five flow measurements taken between July 11, 1996 and October 9, 1996 equated to 0.48 cfs (Gately 2001). The bulk of the watershed is in rural residential zoning (33.2%) and commercial forestry (43.7%). The remaining percentage is in agriculture (4.5%), rural forest (16.8%), water and tidelands (0.6%), and roads and right of ways (1.2%).

Adjacent lands are largely small agriculture, some of which are grazed by cattle. The adjacent lands to the west are residential. Further upstream Donovan and Tommy Creeks are in commercial timber production.

*g) Describe why acquisition is needed. Explain why federal, state, and local regulations do not provide enough protection. State the zoning and Shoreline Master Plan designation.*

Abating the imminent threat of residential development and the associated contamination issues is critically important to ensuring healthy coastal wildlife habitat. This project will prevent excessive nutrient loading from septic systems and increases in impervious surface and contaminated stormwater runoff from potential future residential development of this 76 acre site.

Within the project area, all parcels are zoned Commercial Agricultural with a maximum density of 1 house per 20 acres. The Jones and Hansberry properties are grandfathered smaller lots and could each have one house. The Schmidt's ownership within the project area consists of a small 5 acre parcel and part of a larger parcel which could both legally be developed under current zoning. Currently the project area contains one mobile home

on the Hansberry property, but has the potential for a total of four houses. The area is less than 2 hours drive from Seattle and has considerable appeal for second homes because of its rural character, proximity to Quilcene Bay and views of the Olympic Mountains.

*If buying the land, explain why the acquisition of conservation easements to extinguish certain development, timber, agricultural, mineral, or water rights will not achieve the goals and objectives of the project.*

N/A

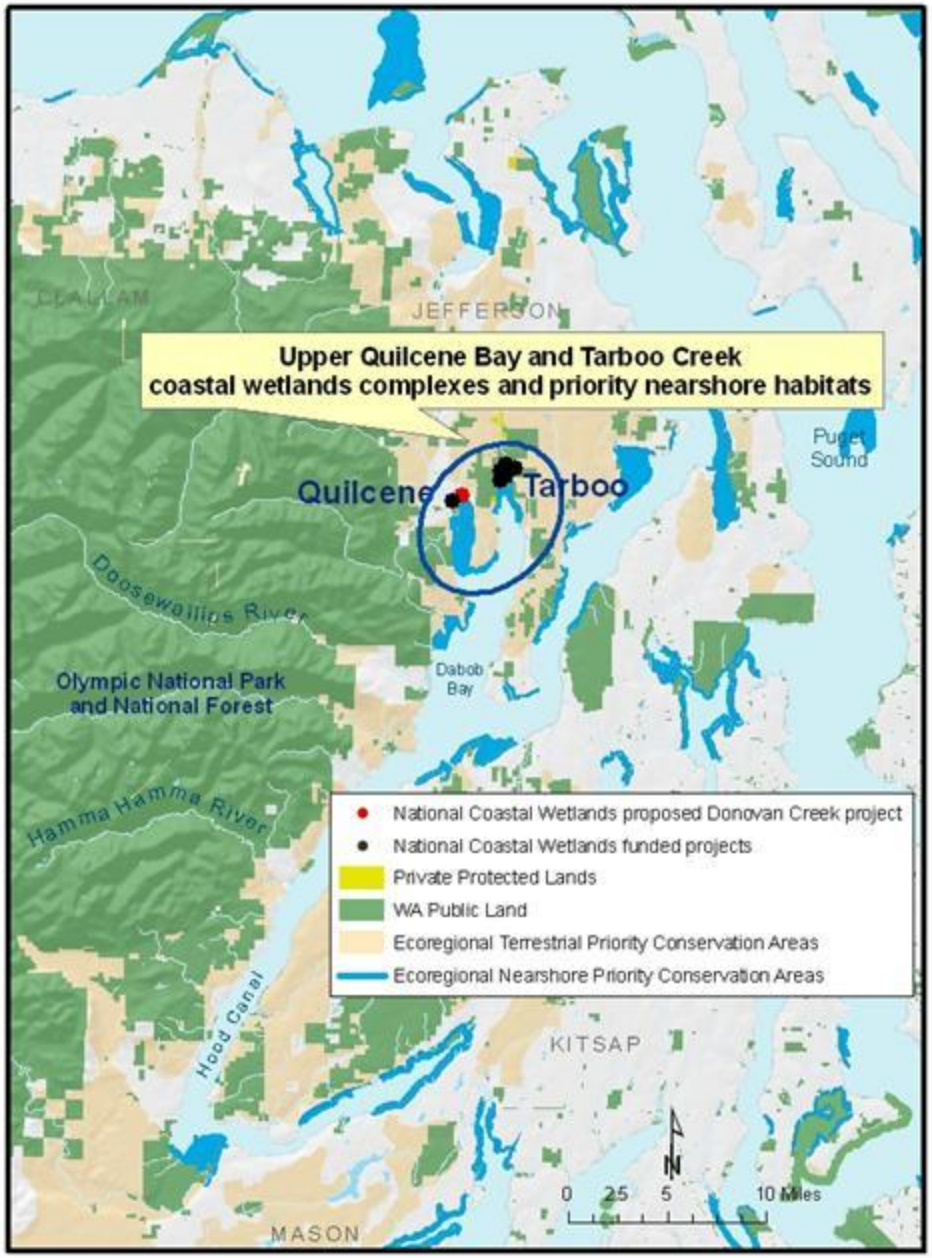
h) *For multi-site acquisition projects, identify all the possible parcels that will provide similar benefits and certainty of success and provide a clear description of how parcels will be prioritized and how priority parcels will be pursued for acquisition.*

Prioritization is difficult as the parcels we will be acquiring were chosen because they are they only parcels that comprise the lower Donovan Creek ecosystem and totally encompass the needed stream restoration.

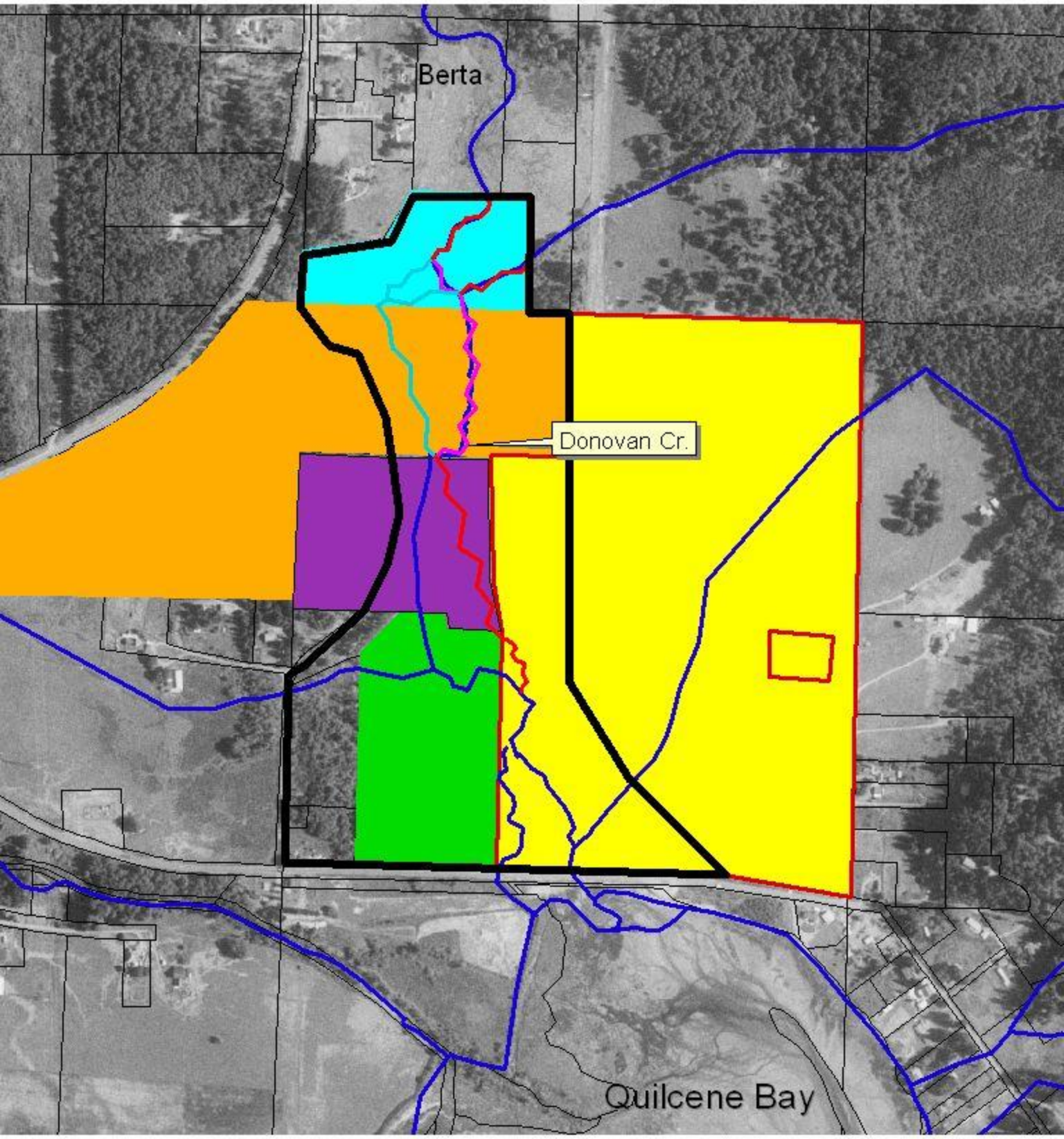
## 6) *FISH PASSAGE PROJECTS* – N/A

## 7) *DIVERSIONS AND SCREENING PROJECTS* – N/A






**Hood Canal SEG; Donovan Creek Acquisition and Restoration - 135 (#09-1610)**
**Attachment #1, Attachment A-Donovan Project Area**



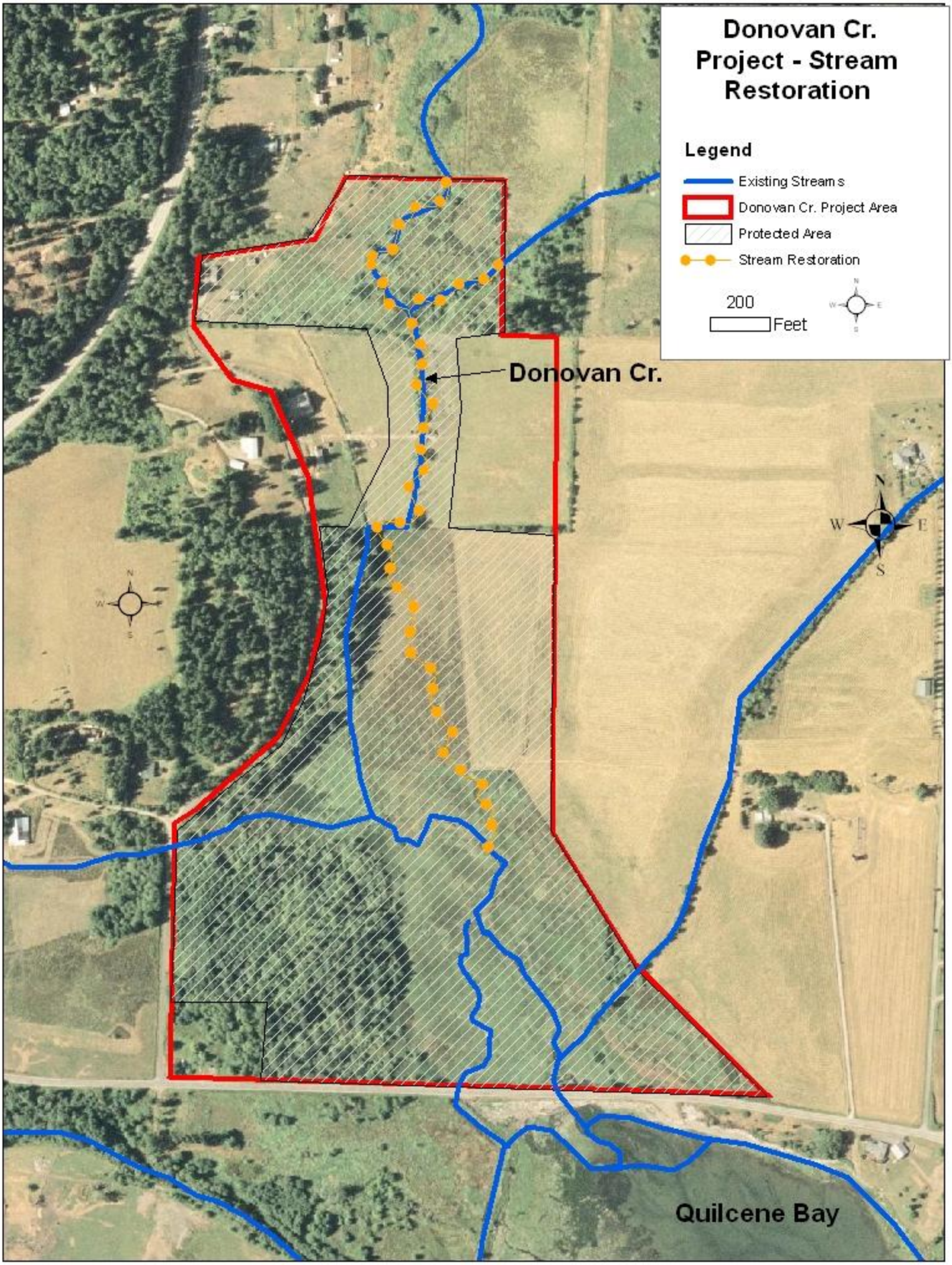

Donovan Cr.
Land Ownership

Donovanprojarea.shp
Option ab.shp
Option A
Option B
Stream Channels
Quilcene Heights
Schmidt Property
Jones Prop
JLT Conservation Easement
Hansberry Prop.
Property Parcels

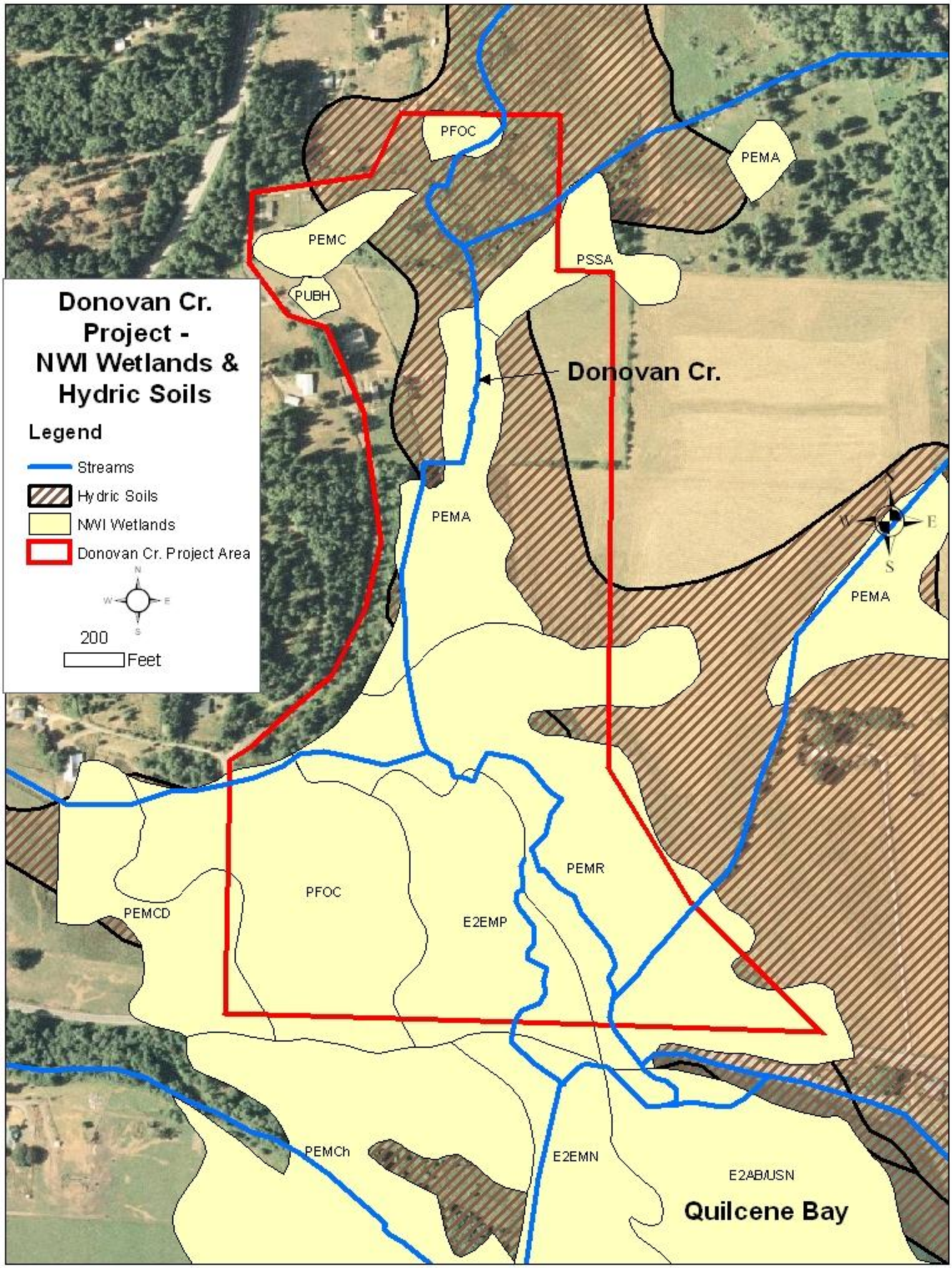
0 500

2000 photo

**Hood Canal SEG; Donovan Creek Acquisition and Restoration - 135 (#09-1610)**
**Attachment #2, Attachment B-Donovan Owners**




Hood Canal SEG; Donovan Creek Acquisition and Restoration - 135 (#09-1610)
Attachment #3, Attachment C-Donovan Restoration




Hood Canal SEG; Donovan Creek Acquisition and Restoration - 135 (#09-1610)
Attachment #4, Attachment D-Donovan Wetlands

*Quilcene Bay Estuary*
Potential Restoration Actions

Remove river & bay dikes

Remove aggraded delta cone material

Restore river channels to historical locations

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group

Big Quilcene River

Little Quilcene River

Replace undersized culvert with a bridge

Donovan Creek Estuary

**Hood Canal SEG; Donovan Creek Acquisition and Restoration - 135 (#09-1610)**
**Attachment #5, Attachment E-Nearby Quilcene Bay Restoration Projects**